

# *The Dedication of the* **Katy Benoit Life Skills Centre**



The parents of Katy, Gary and Janet Benoit and her brother, Andrew Benoit have blessed Caring Hearts High School in many ways, especially sharing Katy's legacy that will inspire our students, to Serve, Lead and Influence others in perpetuity.

The world was blessed with a special gift on April 24, 1989, the day Katy Benoit was born. The news of her passing at a tender age on August 22, 2011 exposed our vulnerabilities in ways only eternity will reveal.

Katy gave us great joy, lots of laughs and many lessons. She was brave and courageous to do the right thing so many times in her life, giving all of us much from which we can learn. Her love for music and her litany of achievements—placed fifth in the Weiser National Fiddle Contest at age 8. She was a valued member of the highly acclaimed Boise High Chamber Orchestra, an adventure that gave her the opportunity for a European tour among other accomplishments.

Ms. Benoit had a gift of connecting with people. She was the student who would sit and talk with foreign students and other new students in her school. She never met anyone who could not be a friend. It is that love for people that prompted Katy to serve and make a difference. Her efforts were recognized with the Bronze, Silver and, the year of her passing, Gold Congressional Awards. Those are recognitions awarded by Congress to exemplary young Americans with outstanding commitment to volunteer services, physical fitness and personal development.

Katy was also an academic giant. She was preparing to not only start her Master's program but teach under-graduate students Social Psychology and Developmental Psychology in the days before her passing. In her short life, Katy showed us how to live to our fullest, love others and make a difference in the world.

Caring Hearts High School has initiated two annual awards, which reflect Katy's academic and volunteering accomplishments. Katy Benoit Scholarship, for full University tuition, is awarded to a Form 4 (senior class) student who attains the highest final exam score in the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Examination. Katy Benoit's Community Service Award is recognition to the student with exemplary community service.

Katy Benoit continues to shape the world.